

*Published for the employees and families of the  
Navy Public Works Center San Diego  
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# *The Centerline*

Third Quarter 2001



# Tøside Quality Line

It is truly amazing how fast time goes by when you're having fun. I have greeted every single day of my tour as Commanding Officer of Public Works Center San Diego with the enthusiasm of a kid going to Disney Land. And the ride has been everything I thought it would be and then some.

We have shared many successes and achieved more milestones than any Commanding Officer could hope for in such a short period of time. I am very proud of the men and women of this Command and all that we have accomplished.

By far our greatest triumph was winning the Presidential Quality Award for Quality Improvement. Your hard work and dedication to strategically aligning our purpose, our metrics, our product and service line business plans has reaped one of the biggest prizes any organization could hope to attain. It also confirms one other major point: we are on the right track toward our vision of being World-Class.

Over the last two years we have won a handful of Energy conservation awards from local, state and federal agencies for significantly reducing energy consumption at a most critical time in California thanks to incredible efforts by our Utilities Business Line; our Environmental Business Line won former-Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award for reinventing their work processes which saved clients millions of dollars; our Transportation Business Line won the first of



two A-76 Studies; we won a Safety recognition award and prior to the PQA, we won the Eureka Award (Bronze Level), California's version of the PQA. One of the most important things we did, and still do, we continue to strengthen our relationship into a fourth decade with our Partner-in-Education, the Lindbergh-Schweitzer Elementary School. We have much on our plate, but nothing is more important than caring for the members in our community who need our help and remain ever grateful for our continued support.

As I depart from San Diego for new challenges at Naval Facilities Engineering Command Headquarters on the East Coast, I look forward to following your continuing success story. You will have many opportunities to show the Navy how good it is to have an in-house World-Class organization providing public works products and services. There will be more challenges coming your way in

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## **TheCenterline**

The Centerline is published in the interest of personnel of the Navy Public Works Center, San Diego.

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the form of competitive studies, new regulations, and new initiatives such as knowledge management practices as E-commerce becomes more than a buzzword in corporate America. You are a wonderful team here in San Diego and by tapping into your synergy, you'll continue on that journey to World-Class status.

It has been a genuine pleasure and an honor serving as your Commanding Officer. I thank you for your support and wish you all a safe, healthy and successful future in all your endeavors.

# Farewell from the Executive Officer

By Capt. Bill Smith

**M**y two years with Public Works Center San Diego are coming to a close.

The facilities maintenance business isn't always glamorous, but it is always important. There's no question that the work we do has a huge impact on the Navy and Marine Corps' ability to fulfill their mission. The quality of our team has been repeatedly recognized over the last few months: the California "Eureka" Award, the Presidential Quality Award, numerous Energy awards, the Vice Presidential Hammer Award ... all wonderful achievements. Perhaps more important though, are the good words we hear from those we

serve, from the Commanding Officer level to the most junior sailor on the ship to which we provide shore power.

There have been many challenges and opportunities over the last couple of years. We face continuing challenges now – particularly concerning upcoming requirements to prove that we are the most competitive organization. However, I've seen you all rise to the challenge time after time. The most gratifying thing I have seen is the nearly universal desire of our people to do the right thing.

My relief is CAPT. (sel) Mark Handley, who is coming from Command of the Seabees of



NMCB FIVE. A great guy, with a tremendous reputation ... we're lucky to have him. I'm moving on to work on the Marine Corps' facilities program in Washington, DC.

I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity to work with you. It has truly been an honor. Take care, take care of each other, be safe and keep doing the right thing!

On the Cover: Chief electrician EMC David Diwag (left) from the USS Rentz (FFG-46) and PWC Electrician, Pogisa Poasa (Code 623) connect the USS Rentz to shore power.

## Command Evaluation

Did you know that if you place a fraud, waste, and abuse hotline call to the DOD IG or Navy IG hotline number they would task the investigation to the PWC Internal Review Office? This tasking process can take up to six months before I receive the complaint. If you want an investigation to begin promptly, call the PWC San Diego hotline number **(619) 556-8477**. All calls remain anonymous!

Carol Woolley  
Command Evaluation Officer



# PWC Welcomes New Production Officer

By Sherry Patrick  
Public Affairs Specialist



**C**mdr. Thomas Cunningham, a native of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, joined Navy Public Works Center, San Diego as the new Production Officer. He relieved Cmdr. David Fleisch, who transferred to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE as the new Commanding Officer.

Cmdr. Cunningham graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering and entered the Navy through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps as an Ensign.

His first duty assignment was with the Public Works

Department at Naval Station, Rota, Spain as the Activity Civil Engineer and the Public Works Department Military Division Officer. His next tour was the Officer in Charge, Naval Construction Battalion Unit FOUR ONE NINE in Orlando, Florida. A year later Cmdr. Cunningham became the Personal Aide and Special Assistant to Rear Admiral John Paul Jones, Jr., CEC, USN, Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and Chief of Civil Engineers. After a follow on tour in the Headquarters' Real Estate and Planning Department, Cmdr. Cunningham was assigned as an Assistant Resident Officer in Charge of Construction at Chesapeake Division's Contracting Office at Quantico, Virginia.

After transferring from Quantico, Cmdr. Cunningham completed his Master of Science degree at Stanford University in the Construction Engineering

Management Program.

Cmdr. Cunningham was assigned to the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, California as the Public Works Officer and Officer in Charge of Construction. He transferred to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE THIRTY-THREE as the Executive Officer. Following this tour, he became the Readiness and Training Officer for TWENTIETH Naval Construction Regiment, Gulfport, Mississippi. His next tour of duty took him to Bahrain where served as the Force Civil Engineer, U. S. Naval Forces, Central Command, and U. S. Fifth Fleet. Cmdr. Cunningham comes to Navy Public Works Center, San Diego from Naval Construction Training Center, Port Hueneme.

He is married to the former Lisa Stoneman of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin and they have two daughters, Laura and Amy. Welcome aboard Cmdr. Cunningham!

# Navy Public Works Center Shows Partner the Ropes

By Public Affairs Staff

**T**he Navy Public Works Center (PWC) hosted three classes of children from the Lindbergh-Schweitzer Elementary School on a tour of USS Comstock LSD 45, on Naval Base San Diego. For more than 40 years, PWC has enjoyed a lasting relationship with the Lindbergh-Schweitzer school, which in 1993 was formalized with the signing of a Partner-in-Education agreement.

Mr. James Roberts, a business operations analyst with PWC and the Center's Lindbergh-Schweitzer Junior Achievement program manager for 2001, coordinated the event with the Skipper and crew of the Comstock, and the Lindbergh-Schweitzer School Principal, Mr. Michael Giafaglione. It was a dream come true for many of the children, much to the delight of the crew and the PWC employees who assisted with the visit, as the enthusiasm and excitement of being on a "real Navy ship" rippled throughout the tour.

Cmdr. Sinclair Harris, Captain of the USS Comstock, met and spoke with the students on the bridge, explaining the duties of his ship and how it fits into the overall Navy mission. After shaking

hands with each student, Cmdr. Harris showed the future recruits around the interior of his domain, and then allowed several students to sit in the Commander's Chair, a rare treat for anyone aboard a Navy vessel who is not the Captain.

Several Comstock crewmembers were on hand to demonstrate some of the ship's capabilities with onboard systems, including SMSN Hernandez, who spelled out several of the students' names using hand held signal flags. That was a big hit as the students giggled throughout the demonstration. After the ship tour, the Lindbergh-Schweitzer students headed over to the PWC Crane Yard aboard Naval Base San



Students at the PWC Crane Yard.

Diego. Once there, Crane and Rigging Foreman Steve O'Brien allowed the students to sit in the cabs of several of the large cranes, handle the controls (no keys, of course) and sound the air horn. The harbormaster must have thought the entire fleet was pulling out at the same time.

By then it was lunchtime and Mr. Roberts had arranged for a special treat by inviting all the students, teachers and parent chaperones to a barbecue over on the picnic grounds of Naval Base San Diego. Providing big assists from PWC, in addition to Mr. Roberts, were Ms. Sherry Patrick, public affairs specialist, and Mr. Tomas Gogue, program manager for the Employee Driven Safety Cultural Forum. Hot dogs, chips and soft drinks all around completed the special day as each child left with souvenirs and many memories of their visit with the world's greatest Navy.



Cmdr. Sinclair Harris, Captain of the USS Comstock, stopped by to greet his young visitors.

# David Hankins Receives Employee of the Quarter for the Second Quarter

By Sherry Patrick  
Public Affairs Specialist



**D**avid L. Hankins was selected as the employee of the Quarter for the second Quarter of 2001. Mr. Hankins has been employed with PWC for about 13 years as an Industrial Equipment Mechanic with the Ship to Shore Division of the Utilities Department. He transferred to that Division with eleven years of graving dock experience. His duties with the Ship to Shore Division include several collateral positions as the division safety observer, fire inspector, HAZMAT coordinator, ergonomic representative, and mainsaver coordinator. He is

a busy person. His full time position requires maintaining the maintenance of pier risers onboard Naval Bases San Diego, Coronado, and Pt. Loma.

Although his job keeps him extremely busy, Mr. Hankins always has time to lend a helping hand to his coworkers whenever he is needed.

“Dave’s willingness to assume a leadership role in local projects and for his participating in and volunteering for many command initiatives. He is held in very high regard by

his supervisors and his peers,” said William Hutchison, Utilities Superintendent.

“I’m honored for being selected to receive this recognition, but I believe this is a team effort and I will accept this award for the Ship to Shore Team,” said David Hankins.

Mr. Hankins’ nomination letter stated he was responsible for eliminating the steam leaks on the area bases. By eliminating these steam leaks, Mr. Hankins contributed to the energy savings onboard the Naval Base San Diego. Congratulations Mr. Hankins!



# Delano Easter is the Safety Employee of the Quarter for the Second Quarter

By Sherry Patrick  
Public Affairs Specialist



**D**elano Easter is Navy Public Works Center's Safety Employee of the Quarter for the Second Quarter. Mr. Easter, a carpenter leader with the Maintenance Business Line is a volunteer Safety Coordinator for Code 554. He joined Navy Public Works Center, San Diego about seven years ago when he trans-

ferred to San Diego from PWC San Francisco. Mr. Easter is fairly new to this collateral duty position as Safety Coordinator, joining the group about six months ago.

As the Safety Coordinator Mr. Easter constantly looks at safer ways to reduce the possibility of mishaps. He routinely visits his job sites and keeps the areas of responsibility as safe as possible. He makes suggestions for safer ways to accomplish assigned tasks, and checks the working environment for hazards such as heavy obstacles and other hazards in the buildings under renovation. He keeps his work center informed of any changes relating to safety issues within the Center.

"Marc leads by example and sets the standards of continuously looking for ways to work smarter and safer. He is always prepared when conducting the training of the stand-up, bi-weekly safety meetings, said Tara Liss, Maintenance Supervisor. He previews all training films prior to presentation to the maintenance work center. He is sought after by his peers to provide suggestions to a particular task or situation with relation to safety. He has had no mishaps in the last three years."

When Mr. Easter was asked how he felt about receiving this award he stated "I was surprised when I heard I won this award. Being safe on the job is second nature and I always try to be prepared when doing my job." Congratulations Mr. Easter!

## Multiple Monitor Housing



Code 586 Technical Services was tasked with manufacturing two stand alone multiple monitor housings for Pat Dunham of SPAWAR. Bill Dishon (Model Maker) and Dave Walston (Welder) had only one week to accomplish the task due to clients needs. This unit was manufactured in three sections so that it could be easily installed aboard ship. Both units are presently being utilized, one aboard the *USS Coronado* and the other at the Naval Warfare Center in Washington D.C.



# The Unsung Heroes of Transportation

## A Cross Sectional View of One of Our Core Business Lines

By **Marc D. Santos**  
**Former Transportation Management Analyst**

This is a two part article designed to introduce you to several employees of the Transportation Department who perform their daily jobs in a professional manner, supporting their clients and co-workers. Recognition for their efforts employees are rarely broadcast, yet it is understood that these very special people are the front line in the Transportation Department charge to satisfy the transportation needs of the Navy.

Our first employee is **Fred Dickinson**, he has worked for PWC as a motor vehicle operator since July of 1989. Fred recently retired from service with Transportation. He came to Transportation from the Commissary where he worked for five months as a meat driver. Fred served in the Marine Corps from 1956 to 1976. He says that his experience working for PWC had been challenging because of the need to pay attention to detail when hauling hazardous materials and wastes, aircraft and aircraft components across the country. The most enjoyable part of his job was receiving instructions to perform a job, then executing the instructions. Fred said if he had any problems he would



Fred Dickinson

contact his supervisor and have him decide what to do next, and he really liked the fact that he was otherwise left alone to do his job. Fred plans to

move up to Sacramento California, where he and his wife will live. His wife, works as a Correctional Officer for the State of California, has been reassigned to an area close to Sacramento. Fred leaves Transportation with these words of encouragement: "Work together and help each other, that's what it is all about." Best wishes to you Fred!

**Richard Blackwell** has served Transportation as a mechanic for more than 24 years now. He was recently



Richard Blackwell

relocated back to Bldg. 3511, Naval Base San Diego, from Naval Base Coronado where he worked a majority of his career. Richard says that his move back to Naval Base San Diego was his biggest challenge. He enjoyed working at Naval Base Coronado where his duties required him to utilize his ingenuity and creative skills to modify and manufacture parts to repair heavy equipment. Richard has one son who is an electrician and he is obviously very proud of him. He is also has a brand new grandson, which now officially makes Richard a grandpa. He looks forward to the not too distant future. Transportation has several dispatchers, one of particular note is **Bobbie Couvson**. Bobbie has worked for PWC as a dispatcher for 20 years. He is a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer with extraordinary organizational skills that he has

carried with him as a dispatcher. Bobbie worked for me for a number



Bobbie Couvson

of years and one thing is for certain, his mind has a better hard drive than the majority of computers we will ever use. Bobbie's career as a dispatcher is loaded with Letters of Appreciation and awards, attesting to his drive to please the client. One of the biggest changes he recalls was when the Naval Aviation Depot consolidated some of its functions with PWC. When I asked Bobbie what he liked most about his job he replied the computers, they do about 95 percent of his job "when they are working." Bobbie has worked for ten different supervisors while he has been employed at PWC, he is now 62 years old and will be retiring this summer from PWC. Bobbie is married and has one son, and he is a big auto enthusiast. He owns a Mustang Cobra with a unique paint job that he has placed in auto shows, placing third in one show. He plans to travel and take it easy once he retires.

Look for the second half of this article in the Fourth Quarter issue of the Centerline.